

POST -30-

Information Strategy Division,
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For Army Newspapers
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PASSAGES FROM PAGES OF ARMY NEWSPAPERS

BAYONET

"Learning something is a little like falling in love. The initial rush of adrenaline, the charge of excitement, knowing the possibilities are limitless."

2nd Lt. Mamie Murphy, from "Scuba Hits The Books," BAYONET, July 13.

ARMY FLIER

"In a dismally hot room 225 years ago, a group of men sat down and deliberately signed what could have been their own death warrants. On paper, as well as on the streets and countryside, the founders of our nation stood up to an empire, knowing that it might cost them everything to gain their freedom. The Declaration of Independence was signed, and a world was changed."

Pfc. M. William Petersen, from "Freedom Fest Reminds Wiregrass What It Means To Be American, ARMY FLIER, July 6.



The Power of Pictures

A tear on her cheek and the expression of ultimate joy were captured at the instant both took place, and both created a powerful image. The photographer is Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow, editor of *IRONSIDE*, 1AD, Germany. This one photo was one of many excellent events he captured with a camera. They appeared in the June-July Homecoming Issue when division troops returned home from Kosovo and Macedonia.

Paula Guzman captured the moment in the life of a 10-month-old awaiting "his daddy's" return from Kosovo as communities of Grafenwoehr and Vilseck welcomed their soldiers home. The photo below, one of many by Guzman, appeared in the June 12-15 issue of the *TRAINING TIMES*, 100th ASG, Germany.



FINAL DRAFT

By *Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (Ret)*

Fort Bragg Newspaper Workshop

Our thanks to Lt. Col. Roger L. King, XVIII Airborne Corps PAO, for inviting us to hold a day-and-a-half Army newspaper workshop July 26 and 27 at Fort Bragg, N.C. The OCPA team included Gary Sheftick, ARNEWS Director, Master Sgt. Jon Connor, Army Newspaper Chief, and me.

We talked newspapers to 30 Army journalists from the Corps, 82nd Airborne Div., 22nd MPAD, Womack Army Medical Center and several members of the Pope AFB PA shop.

Our thanks to Sergeant Major C. J. Costello and to Stacey Avian Robinson, who got the workshop going and kept it on track. Our thanks also to the PARAGLIDE staff for its hospitality.

OCPA's New Sergeant Major

Sgt. Maj. Phil Prater is OCPA's news sergeant major. He left V Corps, Germany, for the Pentagon assignment, succeeding Sgt. Maj. Richard Czizik, who has been assigned to CENTCOM, a joint command in Florida.

Prater comes to OCPA with plenty of public affairs experience. He served the SMA as his Public Affairs assistant, has had a stint on SOLDIERS magazine and was a staffer on a host of Army newspapers.

KLW SOP To Be Released Soon

Several changes have been made to this year's KLW SOP. Master Sgt. Jon Connor is expected to release the add-ons and deletions soon. Now is the time to focus on the items you plan to enter. The entry dates for the print categories will come soon from AFIS.



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Self Editing

By Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (Ret)

**"I have the desire, the love, the drive, the purpose and confidence to be a great writer; unfortunately I don't have a way with words."
—In a letter to me by an Army journalist, circa 1960.**

Do we always write what we mean? The writers of the following passages thought so when they put their thoughts on paper.

In the sentences, writers thought they were constructing expressions everyone could readily understand. Unfortunately, each writer forgot that clarity is an important element in communication. The results, in some cases, gave way to unintended ambiguity and sometimes humor.

What was the Army journalist thinking when he jotted this sentence on paper?

"A soldier who works hard usually is promoted."

If her aim was to cause misunderstanding, she succeeded.

And how is the following possible?

"The corporal will give two vocal solos on his clarinet."

What went through the minds of the writers of these gems?

"Don't go elsewhere and get skinned, try us first."

"He had his eye on the vacant seat, but a stranger sat on it."

"Dear Doctor: When my wife began taking your medicine, she lay at the gates of death. She took several bottle, and they pulled her through."

"For sale: alligator. Will eat anything. Is fond of children."

"The ladies of the 7th Street Church are discarding clothing of all kinds. They may be seen tomorrow afternoon in the church basement."

"For sale: Small stock of groceries. Reason for selling: old age."

"Louise's mother died shortly after her birth."

"We wish to thank neighbors and friends who so kindly assisted us in the death and burial of our mother."

"Most squad members had to lay down because of fatigue."

"Everyone was asked to take their seats."

The printed word can be "dangerous" if not carefully selected and used. Once it appears in print, it can wreak havoc, and making corrections can be nearly impossible.

The Army editor's role is that of "watchdog," the person responsible for the words that show up in print. But under today's limited staff sizes, he needs all the help he can get, and what better person to lend a hand than his reporter. If no reporter is staffed, the onus, unfortunately, falls on the editor's shoulder.

As for writing structure, Army journalists fall into several writing categories: those who overstate—that is, those who write in a paragraph what can easily be stated in a simple sentence. And those who fail to say enough. They say in a word what should be stated in more than a word.

When famed author James Thurber spent part of his youth as a rewrite man with the NEW YORK POST, he was frequently lectured by his editor for failing to trim “verbal fat” from news copy. The focus of many lectures, according to Bennett Cerf, a columnist, who relayed this story decades ago, centered on Thurber’s failure to rewrite long leads, overstated leads into short ones.

The editor had a mania for short, punchy sentences, especially in leads, and admonished reporters and copy editors alike to follow his dictates or else.

Thurber finally got the point. He ran this lead on a page-one story”

“Dead.

“That’s what killer Joe Coochum was when police found him in an alley yesterday.”

Perhaps Mr. Thurber took his editor’s demands a step too far, but the point was made. News sentences—whether in leads or in the body of stories—often are wordy and need retooling or said another

way, in need of “slash” editing.

News sentences are unique. Some one once labeled them as “news English,” language that is lively, punchy, vigorous and always, always directly to the point.

And, Army reporting certainly is no different, although the argument surfaces from time to time that Army news writing is strident—“house organ-ish journalism.” Untrue!

Unlike general government writings, Army journalists are not “status seekers,” whose sole aim is to impress rather than express, using complex and pompous words and phrases as crutches.

Army print journalists, especially those who graduate from DINFOS, leave the school with ways and means of expressing their thoughts and ideas on paper accurately, clearly, grammatically and succinctly.

But, such teachings carry Army journalists just so far. The rest of the journey needs the helping hand and guidance of those who have been there and know the way.

The purpose of writing is to communicate—to get a point across from one mind to another mind, not an easy task. But, it can be done with clear thinking and carefully chosen words and phrases, an understanding of the news writing process and repeated self editing.

Editing: An Important Task

Editng is one of the most important, and perhaps, the most exacting tasks in writing. The quality of the finished product — the information that finally reaches the reader on paper — depends in great measure on the quality of writing and editing.

An Army reporter writes to inform, educate and enlighten readers with words, but his journey must begin by educating and enlightening himself. Through writing practices, criticisms, rewriting his own work, an Army journalist can go beyond merely putting words on paper.

Readers tend to have high regards for a newspaper that is well edited and well written. And they quickly lose respect for and confidence in a publication that is sloppy and full of errors.

On any newspaper—military or civilian—editing is the final review before copy is sent to the printer and readied for the presses. It’s the last stop in the news presentation cycle.

But, as Army newspaper staffs dwindle, the responsibility of the final editing and review often must be shared by reporters.

Checklist for editing

The Army editor is the “terminal gatekeeper,” —that is, the person who stands between the paper’s content and the reader’s mind.

Besides ensuring copy is free of security breaches, libel and possible copyright infringements and about everything else, most Army editors unknowingly follow a path along which words will eventually appear in print. It might be a good idea if reporters join in that travel.

In some shops, reporters are allowed to write headlines, cutlines, layout pages and edit copy. This is commendable and recommended for all publications.

What should editing reporters

lookout for? Here are a few suggestions. Ensure information:

is factual—check closely.
free of errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar.
free of any hint of bias (opinion).
consistent with the paper’s writing style such as ranks, titles, dates and unit designations.
attributed to sources when used.
free of unnecessary words, phrases and even sentences.
is clear and compact with one message confined to each sentence.
contains no duplication.

Always check facts: “*If a person tells you he once had a mother, check it out.*”
 Assume nothing!!!

News Sentences

Comments below are based on writings found in Army newspapers.

1. Begin each sentence with significant facts—

Get to the point in the opening salvo of words. The best word order is *subject-verb-object*. There are sentence variations, but the simpler the better.

Two sentence structures come into play as well: *loose* and *periodic*. When the emphasis goes first in a sentence, the structure is *loose*. If the significant facts are placed at the end of the sentence, the structure is considered *periodic*.

“*According to news releases, several Army installations are under review for closure.*” (periodic) Significant fact is placed last.

“*Several Army installations are under review for closure, according to news releases.*” (loose) Significant fact is placed first.


The point to note in the example is: what’s said is more important than who said it. “According to” is a *attribution designator* and should go at the end of a news sentence when used in quoting. When used as a reference, “according to...” may begin a sentence.

“*According to records, the last time troops were sent to. ...*”

There (*will, is, etc*) ” should be avoided as a sentence opener. The phrase provides no information; it’s deadwood.

“*There will be an awards presentation at 3 pm.*”

“*An awards presentation will begin at 3 pm.*”



“It was his hard work and dedication that brought him to the attention of his commanding officer.”

“His dedication and hard work brought him to the attention of his commanding officer.”

“There are several buildings in need of reconstruction.”

“Four barracks need rebuilding.”

Avoid terms that say and add nothing to the news sentence.

2. Use words with a clear and simple meaning—

Simple and common words are easy to read and understand. Use words that carry images, not shadows.

“One of the tank’s chief components was damaged. “

“The tank’s gas pump was broken.”

“It was a lengthy oral presentation.”

“He spoke for three hours.”

“The exercise was cancelled because of inclement weather.”

“Rain cancelled the exercise.”

3. Keep sentences short and simple—

Avoid long complex sentences. Prefer two simple sentences to one long compound sentences as a general rule. Various sentence lengths add variety, however.

“Water restrictions now could make a difference in the long run, but future levels in the reservoir table could begin dropping rapidly if forecasted precipitation fails to materialize.”

“Water restrictions now could make a difference. Lack of rain, however, will further lower the reservoir levels.”

The next example made its debut in World War II. It’s an excellent example of turning a complex message into a simple one. Here’s one version of the story:

A U.S. submarine had engaged a Japanese submarine in the Pacific ocean and after a prolonged exchange of fire, the enemy sub was sunk. The skipper instructed his second in command to prepare a message about the action to fleet headquarters in Honolulu. Upon seeing the lengthy message and its numerous details about the event, the skipper quickly scratched a rewrite. Some 30 words became four:

“Sighted sub sunk same.”

Simple and succinct and obviously understandable. The point: keep sentences short and their messages simple. One message per sentence.



But, even simple sentences can pose problems if word arrangement and grammar rules are ignored. If a sentence conveys more than one distinct meaning, the sentence needs retooling.

4. Use proper connectives—

Some news sentences may be compound sentences—that is two sentences joined as one. Such sentences can be used to avoid monotony in writing.

The most common connectives are:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| and (action is equal) | <i>Pfc. Roger Grey went for the Gold and won.</i> |
| but (opposite reaction) | <i>Pfc. Roger Grey went for the Gold but failed.</i> |
| or (alternate action) | <i>Pfc. Roger Grey will try for the Gold or Silver.</i> |

5. Use certain nouns as modifiers to reduce wordiness —

Certain words and phrases can be used effectively as modifiers. Such constructions often result in less wordiness. This will not be useful in all cases.

“The promotion board for this year is scheduled to meet next month.”

“This year’s promotion board is scheduled to meet next month.”

“Fritz Kohler, the coach of the Bison, will change the roster before game time.”

“Bison coach Fritz Kohler will change the roster before game time.”

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>money for spending</i> | spending money |
| <i>deductions for taxes</i> | tax deductions |
| <i>promises that were broken</i> | broken promises |
| <i>ticket for speeding</i> | speeding ticket |

6. Convert verb phrases into a single action verb—

Verb phrases can be converted into a single action verb, thus making the action stronger and sentences shorter.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>to take action</i> | act | <i>give a speech</i> | speak |
| <i>have a conference</i> | meet | <i>to arrive at</i> | arrive |
| <i>came to an end</i> | ended | <i>expressed regret</i> | regretted |
| <i>make a distinction</i> | distinguish | <i>provide an explanation</i> | explain |
| <i>conduct an inspection</i> | inspect | <i>perform an exercise</i> | exercise |

7. Convert phrases into single words when possible—

Taken from Army news stories. Note that several examples are redundancies,

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| <i>in addition to</i> | besides | <i>in relation to</i> | on, about |
| <i>adequate enough</i> | adequate | <i>all-time record</i> | record |
| <i>basic principle</i> | principle | <i>first off</i> | first |
| <i>first and only</i> | first | <i>past history</i> | history |
| <i>entirely complete</i> | complete | <i>until such time</i> | until |
| <i>vast majority</i> | most | <i>prior experience</i> | experience |
| <i>ask a question</i> | question | <i>foreign imports</i> | imports |
| <i>new record</i> | record | <i>red in color</i> | red |

8. Some words and phrases should be deleted—

The following words and phrases do little to enhance meaning of a news sentence.

*carefully carefully noted deem as regards in reference to quite
with reference to per pursuant to fortunately necessarily decidedly
in general very interestingly in fact fundamental eventual
totally successful somewhat untimely undue strictly speaking*

Army journalists must recognize the value and limitations of language for communicating ideas to their readers. Words sometimes can become barriers, not facilitators of ideas. Edit!

Words are merely symbols that often do not carry the same meaning to all readers. Five hundred common words listed in the Oxford have more than 14,000 meanings; that's 28 meanings per word. Close editing and selection of words will allow readers to quickly and completely understand a message. Edit!

Effective writing takes time, practice and persistence—rewrite, rewrite and re-write—that is, edit.

James Thurber, mentioned previously, once noted that he spent several thousand hours making 15 revisions to a story of 20,000 words. Some early scholars long thought that Plato made as many as 70 revisions to the opening paragraph of his monumental treatise, *Republic*. Later scholars, the Roman, Quintilian among them, discovered that Plato made a number of revisions—not 70—to the first few words of the first paragraph. Even the greatest of the great seek to sharpen and perfect the words they put on paper. Beethoven tried nearly a dozen times to rewrite the opening four notes of his Fifth Symphony. He finally settled on the famous three Gs and one E-flat.

Good writing can be learned, although many say it cannot. There are no magic formulas. Good writing is a product of dedication to the craft, training and the effective use and understanding of profession's tools—among them, its *words* and the art *self editing!* -30-



COVERING 'CONTROVERSIAL' ISSUES

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs,
ARNEWS Military Correspondent



Every reporter wants the chance to cover the “controversial” story and affect readers by educating them or stirring emotions. However, it's not the topic that makes the story, it's the content and placement in the newspaper that determines the story's effectiveness.

Controversial topics are not always stories on homosexuals in the military or an expose on the Chinese making Army berets. Subjects that will affect benefits, promotion or morale are also audience-related issues.



As a staff writer, when I'm assigned to cover what we refer to as "hot topics" the first thing I do is gather background information on the subject. Researching the topic gives me more insight before preparing a list of questions. The information can come from previously written articles or the Internet.

Reading the work of others is not a sign of having a lack of creativity, and it is not taking short cuts. It's doing your homework. You should go into the interview being knowledgeable, because if the subject matter expert doesn't give you informative answers, you can use follow-up questions to get more precise information.

I recently covered an article on melanoma, a fatal skin cancer, which kills thousands of Americans each year. But I had to remain focused and concentrate on the hundreds that are diagnosed with it in the Army. Of course I had to ask the general questions -- How do people get the cancer? Who's at risk? But I also wanted to know: how can soldiers, who have no choice but to train in the sun, protect themselves from getting the skin cancer.

Through research, I already knew the answers to some of the questions. However, I'm not the subject matter expert and readers want to hear facts from the professionals -- not me, the writer.

When covering topics instead of news events, it's harder to determine the news peg until after the interview. However, you can come up with a focus and align your questions with that focus. When I started writing questions for the melanoma story, I knew people were getting diagnosed in alarming rates, but I didn't know if soldiers were among those people.

I decided that if only a few soldiers were being diagnosed, my focus would be to educate soldiers on how the disease is contracted and how to prevent it. If during the interview I discovered a news angle, then that would be the approach. For example, if the doctor told me numbers were down in the Army due to preventive measures practiced Armywide, that's news.


After determining the focus and types of questions, I thought about who would make the best subject matter experts. I needed a medical point of view, also someone who had gone through melanoma to add human interest, and someone who could provide me with statistics.

This year I've read numerous stories in Army newspapers about soldiers who are committing illegal acts by changing their identification to get into clubs or to buy liquor, or they're using illegal substances. All the stories include the five Ws and the How, but not all of them are going beneath the surface. Once you interview the post medical folks and the military policemen on an Ecstasy story, call the emergency room and asks about soldiers or family members who have come through there after an overdose.

The affect doesn't always have to be gut wrenching. A story about how coupons help offset commissary costs doesn't have to land on the last page with the smallest headline. Talk to a spouse who had three children to feed on a specialist's pay, and was able to keep food stocked by thrifty shopping. Young spouses are not always as eager to talk about things like that. However, Army Community Service could probably get you in touch with the spouse of a noncommissioned officer, who may remember how times were in the beginning of their Army career.

Staci Sands, the editor of ARMY FLIER's Living Section, Fort Rucker, Ala., wrote an excellent story on the date rape drug, Rohypnol. She explained how easy it can be to become a victim, and included ways to protect yourself. The story also included national statistics. A lot of times writers try to compile the facts, tips and source information in 500 to 700 words. However, Sands took her time and went into great detail.

Her story included subheads, which helps to lead readers into new details. It also helps break up gray space in long stories. Another element in her story that



caught my eye was the picture. It showed a hand about to drop a pill in a glass of beer. That was creative thinking. A lot of times when we cover news stories, there won't be a photo opportunity. Journalists also should decide what photo will add to the effectiveness of the story.

As journalists, we all know the basics to write into a story. But it's the creativity, added sources and research that make an ordinary piece, a well-written story. Fancy headlines and catchy leads might get the readers' attention, but only the content will keep their attention to the end. -30-

Remembering The Redhorse Review

*By 1st Lt. Robert F. Bennett
(U.S. Army—Vietnam 1969-1970)*

It was a funky little paper. The nameplate was hand drawn, the mimeographed pictures were bad at best, and there were no Pulitzer Prize winners on the staff. Yet, **EVERYONE READ IT!** The 3/17th Air Cavalry Squadron was nominally assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade (which encompassed all air units that were not assigned to a major unit). We were composed of three Troops: Alpha, Bravo and Charlie— composed of four "Hunter-Killer teams (Cobras and scout ships), Delta Troop, the ground element, and a Headquarters Troop. We were farmed out to whoever had a need. We did little work together as a squadron so The REDHORSE REVIEW was a way for us to keep up with our friends in the other troops.

It recorded many of the specific engagements people were involved in, quite often in stories written by the participants--first person reports. It recorded who won what medals, who was promoted and who was killed in the service of their country.

The writing was not all that great, as far as form went, but many of the stories were first-person accounts written by those who were right there when events took place. I think that's why it was popular with the troopers.

It was our paper, by us, for us and about us. Sure we read the STARS & STRIPES to keep up with events in "The World" (back home), but this was our connection with each other throughout the squadron. It really did help keep up a spirit of unit pride. As best as I can estimate, it was first published in September 1969, and probably did not go past July or August 1970.

It's existence is probably coincident with the beginning and ending of the tour of it's editor, 1st Lt. Charles S. McCulloch. I have subsequently learned that this was a common lifespan for the smaller unit mimeographed newspapers. Very few copies survived. It was a newspaper. One got it, read it, enjoyed it, and disposed of it. At the time, it was not a piece of memorabilia to be saved. You didn't do that with



many newspapers. Their function, on the surface, was more utilitarian.

I was the 2nd Platoon leader for D Troop, 3/17th Air Cavalry from July 1969 to July 1970. As I was packing up to head back home, I found a stack of six REDHORSE REVIEWS. I almost threw them out, but I threw them in my bag instead with the thought, "These might be interesting 20 years from now when the kids (yet to be born) would ask, 'What did you do in the war, Daddy?'" In the early 80's they were loaned to a friend for a Veteran's Day display at the local high school and then lost, until the Summer of 2000.

In August 2000 I ran across www.splorg.org/vietnam/index.html—Home page for D Troop, 3/17th Air Cavalry. I was quite concerned. I could not remember the name of the one man I lost during my tour 30 years earlier. I felt terrible. I had failed him by not remembering his name. When I contacted the webmaster, Bill Nevius, I found he had a similar situation. I talked with my friend to whom I had lent The REDHORSE REVIEW and they were found after 20 years in storage. With these, Nevius and I both were able to remember our fallen friends. My trooper was Clark Rogers, as confirmed by his obituary in the July 1970 REDHORSE REVIEW. I then got a message from Nevius about the front page story of the May 1970 issue, "In The Dead Of Night". There was the name he was trying to remember, Michael Langnehs. Turns out Michael Langnehs was one of my troopers in the 2nd Platoon. Appropriate memorials were left with "The Wall".

That was just the beginning. With THE REDHORSE REVIEW, Nevius was able to add 168 names to the D Troop Roster alone. The webmasters for the Squadron and other four troops (Links are in the D Troop Homepage) also increased the number of names on their rosters many fold. And the stories in the words of those who were there. Priceless!

In the Spring of 2001, I found Sgt. Maj. Gary Beylickjian of "Post-30-." I was told if anyone had copies of the issues of The REDHORSE REVIEW I was missing, he would.

The value of what I had became immediately apparent when I found that practically none of the small unit papers survived. I was pleased to be able to provide copies of what I had to the sergeant major.

Keeping this information is so important. When the names of these men who unquestioningly gave their lives in the service of their country are forgotten, we, the living have failed them. It is our obligation to keep that memory alive. Do you have a friend or relative who fought in Vietnam, Korea or World War II? Do they have any old newspapers tucked away somewhere? We are losing WW II vets at the rate of 1,000 a day. When they're gone, the only thing we may have left is the stories in papers their units may have published. You know someone? Ask! If you find an old paper, send it in to Sgt. Maj. Beylickjian and, if the unit has a website and a webmaster trying to write that unit's history, send it there too.

I just kept a few old newspapers. The heroes here are people like Sgt. Maj. Beylickjian who keep advancing the quality of Army newspapers, and webmasters like the 3/17th bunch:



Brian Piggot, Morris Miller, Roger Young, Skip Davis, Fernando DePerris and Bill Nevius. (start at www.splorg.org/vietnam/index.html and hook up to the links from there.) They are recording the history.

The memory of those lost and what they did is absolutely necessary. Stop and think for a minute and ask yourself, "How can I help?" Find an answer and, as Madison Avenue tells us, "Just do it!" -30-

My thanks to Robert F. Bennett, 1st Lt., U.S. Army (Vietnam), for his article and his contribution to the Army and to the conflict in Southeast Asia, known as Vietnam. Mr. Bennett is the father of James Bennett, editor of the 2000 KLV award-winning newsletter, KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS.

The Army had more than 50 mimeographed (small format) newspapers serving soldiers around the world during the 1950s to the 1970s. Many were active for only a few months and some for a year and beyond. These publications were produced at company, battalion, brigade and regimental levels. About 25 served soldiers in Vietnam on and off for more than a decade. The REDHORSE REVIEW was one — not forgotten and truly appreciated by those it served. —GGB



Adjectives and editorializing

Write it tight and keep it straight. That's good advice for the unseasoned Army journalist new on the job.

Many reporters tend to inject certain adjectives into their stories that border on editorializing. In most cases, using improperly selected adjectives may give the reader a slanted viewpoint of the story.

In this sentence, "She was a vivacious red-head and sang like an angel," could have been stated, "She was an attractive girl with long red hair and the audience applauded her singing."

Most girls (ladies) are attractive. Being vivacious is the opinion of the reporter, as is the word "angel."

The same reporting applies to the size of crowds. A "large" crowd could be a great many people in the opinion of someone from a rural area, but for someone from a large city, it could be a "small" crowd. When mentioning attendance at sports events or other activities, better to quote a source and number or give an "estimated crowd" of 20,000 fans, etc.

Always check copy with a critical eye before passing it to the editor. Keep opinions to yourself, unless you're called upon to write one that is clearly identified as an "editorial."

Copyright and the Early Bird

Beware of copyrighted material; it's around us, and we may not realize using it breaks the law—copyright law.

The Early Bird contains many military-related articles compiled for our reading, but not for our using. Nearly all the articles are copyrighted by the reporters or the publishing organizations. Early Bird uses the material—but only Early Bird. The copyright privilege isn't transferred. Using the articles requires authorization from

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Keith L. Ware Print Winners Website

The 2000 Keith L. Ware print winning entries are now available for website viewing. To locate the site, go first to the Army home page, then to ArmyLINK, then link to Public Affairs Professionals where the site can be viewed under the heading 2000 Keith L. Ware winners. The website may also be viewed using the website address: www.dtic.mil/armylink/ware/2000/

The POC for this website is Master Sgt. Jon Connor, newspaper program chief. He can be reached at (703) 695-3216, DSN 225-3216, or e-mail, jon.connor@hqda.army.mil

Distribution Reminder

We're still having a few problems with newspaper distribution. Some unit papers send us one copy, several send us more than two. A few post papers can't seem to send us any despite repeated calls.

We receive papers on time from Korea, Alaska, Germany, Italy, Hawaii, but mail from some stateside posts seems to be bogged down. Failure to forward copies—as required by AR 360-1—is a *violation*. The wording in the reg includes the term “mandatory.” See paragraph 3-5t on page 8.

Send two copies to OCPA; everyone should know the address by now. Send one copy to each of the following:

- ✱ *Director, American Forces Information Service, 6-1 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2007.*
- ✱ *Director, Journalism Department, Defense Information School, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5600.*
- ✱ *The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, ATTN: Newspaper Archives, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706-1488.*
- ✱ *Army Family Liaison Office, ATTN: Editor, Room 2D665, Asst. Chief of Staff Installation Management, 600 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0600.*

Also, discontinue stating AR 360-81 as a reference in mastheads. That reg has been dead for months. The “bible” now is AR 360-1.

KLW, JOY, MILPHOG Entries

Don't wait for the announcements for the annual newspaper, photography and writer awards. Army journalists should have set aside possible entries for the Keith L. Ware, Journalist of the Year and Military Photography competition from day one of this year.

MISCELLANY

The June 22 Fort Benning BAYONET ran a one-of-a-kind page-one story: a soldier and his wife are expecting quintuplets. The story appeared below the flag and was headlined: "Oh Baby Times 5 For Soldier." The articles was written by Bridgett Siter.

Fort Jackson's LEADER ran a story rarely seen in Army newspapers: the visit by a first lady of a sitting President. Laura Bush addressed an assemblage at an elementary school on post, focusing on the Troops to Teachers program. The page-one article, written by Linda Lyly and Regenia Gatewood, appeared May 10.

Laurie Almodovar, award-winning staff writer with 6th ASG's CITIZEN is on her way to Scott AFB where her husband has been assigned. Laurie was the paper's assistant editor and writer. The CITIZEN staff is down to one editor and part-time writer.

DUGWAY DISPATCH, printed voice of Dugway Proving Ground, is back in circulation after several months of R&R. The DISPATCH is the Army's only Army-Funded broadsheet. No editor is listed in the masthead.

When we listed the GREEN MOUNTAIN GUARD as a Four-Star publication, we placed its origin in the wrong state. GMG hails from Vermont, not Connecticut.

DESERT VOICE has a talented crew overseeing its production. NCOIC is Staff Sgt. James M. Brantley, formerly editor of the BANNER, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., and staffers include Spc. Adam Nuelken, editor, and Spc. Stephanie Carl, both with the FRONTLINE. The BANNER won a J-Award under Brantley's tenure, and the FRONTLINE received a J-Award in July. Carl is slated to take the editor's position shortly.

When we applauded PS magazine on its 50th anniversary, the email address we included was incomplete. It's psmag@logsa.army.mil.

Fort Stewart's FRONTLINE has an interesting standing column, Body Shop, which offers readers health and exercise tips. Jim Jeffcoat is the FRONTLINE's editor.

Sgt. William Boldt is back at the LAMP's editor's chair. Boldt, NCOIC and former LAMP editor, moved back to editing after Sgt. Chris Dunphy ETSD. The LAMP is produced by Fort Leavenworth's PA shop.

Doug Ide succeeded Marcia Klein as editor of FEEDBACK, the monthly 28-page newsletter produced by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, in Alexandria, Va. Ide has served in numerous PA shops and many Army newspapers. Klein is now a member of the PA shop of the U.S. Army Management Staff College located at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Staff Sgt. Eric Reinhardt is editor of DAGGER, monthly newsletter of the 66th MI Group, Germany. Sergeant Reinhardt was editor of Fort Stewart's FRONTLINE.

Paul Haring, a photographer formerly with the BELVOIR EAGLE, has joined the staff of Fort Myer's PENTAGRAM and has been on its staff for a few months. One of the best photographers in the business, Haring left the BELVOIR EAGLE for stint on a commercial paper, but heard the call to rejoin the Army community.

The BLIZZARD, Fort Drum's weekly tabloid, has begun a column titled, Ask Capt. Goodlaw, a service "to share common legal issues with readers." The BLIZZARD is one of a handful of Army newspapers providing legal and non legal guidance.

MONITOR, award-winning, 48-page tabloid out of Fort Bliss, has a new editor: Spc. Aaron Thacker. He succeeds Spc. Chris Fincham, who is scheduled for an assignment overseas.

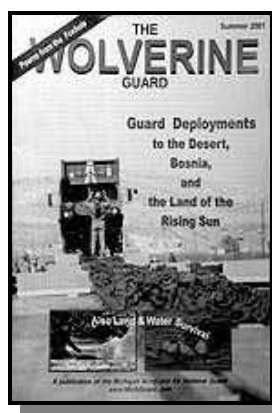
Staff Sgt. Tami Lambert has been named editor of Fort Carson's MOUNTAINEER. Spc. Stacy Harris, former editor, is back to reporting.

Spc. Stacie Mitschke has been named associate editor of INSIDE THE TURRET, Fort Knox's award-winning broadsheet. Mitschke succeeds Spc. Adriane Foss who will leave the Army. Foss and Mitschke have been listed by OCPA as outstanding Army journalists.

FROM THE FIELD



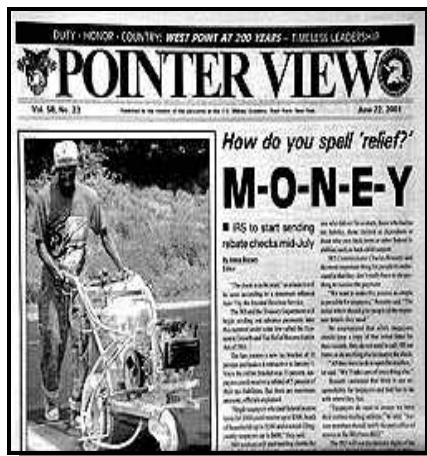
Left—The sports page of Fort Hood's SENTINEL is attractive and readable besides being bold and innovative. The SENTINEL's sports page is one of many SENTINEL improvements. Sgt. Kap Kim is the sports editor. **Top**—Fort Richardson's ALASKA POST devoted a double truck to the Army's birthday with a dazzling display published June 14. Sgt. Cecile Cromartie is editor.



Left—The KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS, a newsletter produced on the Marshall Islands, shows that size is no factor when producing effective two-page spreads. It's a visually balanced design. The feature "Ghost Players Tour World For Love Of Ball, Kids," was written by Bruce Sinkula, photos by editor Jim Bennett, published May 18. **Center**—The WOLVERINE, a quarterly magazine, published by the Michigan Army and Air National Guard, is jammed with outstanding stories, photos and page layouts. Capt. Dawn D. Dancer is the editor. **Right**—The CONNECTICUT GUARDIAN is the tabloid voice in print of the Connecticut National Guard. Its editor is Sgt. 1st Class Debbie Newton.



Left—Carolee Nisbet, editor of the Fort Dix POST, produced an excellent example on the naming of Fort Dix. Her article “Dorothea, Richard, Drew and John: The Four Who Made The Name Dix Famous” story appeared July 13. **Center**—What was once Camp Meade, Maryland, can be seen in an article by Connie Ballenger in the July 5 SOUNDOFF!. The story is titled, “A Quick Step Through Time.” **Right**—One of the most famous illustrations in our nation was drawn by James M. Flagg 85 years ago, and the RECRUITER JOURNAL paid tribute to Mr. Flagg’s contribution, particularly in recruiting. The article, written by Pearl Ingram, RJ editor, appeared in the July issue.



Left—An excellent technique to grab attention: a bog and bold headline. And West Point’s POINTER VIEW did just that. How do you spell relief? Readers found relief in Irene Brown’s story, published June 22. Ms. Brown is PV’s editor. **Center**—Innovative Visuals can make an acceptable presentation into a great one. Innovative layouts are the trademark of Fort Campbell’s COURIER. The COURIER and Fort Bragg’s PARAGLIDE are neck-in-neck in the graphics arena. **Right**—Speaking of the PARAGLIDE. One of many dynamic page designs that appear weekly. Good color repro, excellent photography and creative writing contribute to the PARAGLIDE’s ranking as a top Army newspaper. Sgt. Rob Hayes is editor.



Left and second left — A look at two pages of the Fort Campbell COURIER. Each grabs attention and draws the reader into the page. **Third from left** — We don't comment about ads, but this one in the HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY was a magnet. The HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN tells readers it has won practically every journalism award on the island and lists each one. **Right** — Another outstanding Sgt. Gregory Withrow photo which appeared in the June-July issue of IRONSIDE.



Top, left and right — Fort Leonard Wood's GUIDON, a broadsheet, publishes many spectacular double trucks, and the one above is just another great one. The story and photos are by Pvt. Chris Charlton and were published June 14. The photo at right, circled in the spread at left, shows the split-second photo capture of a soldier's reaction as she is about to undergo rappelling training.



Left — The inset photo interferes or disrupts the integrity of the photo. Such techniques should be avoided. The inset added nothing to the photo. **Right** — A good pose can actually look like a spontaneous event when captured by a camera. A bad pose looks really posed as in the photo on the cover of the BLADE. Sometimes an even has to be set up, but the point is to ensure the event doesn't look phony.





OUTPOST (Yuma Proving Ground) for “Kicking Up Dust On YPG’s Tank Courses A Matter Of Continued Education,” by Marcella Chavez, published July 9.

DESERT VOICE (Kuwait) for the layout in “Soldiers Take To The Sea,” photos by Spc. Stephanie Carl, published June 13.

WHEEL (Fort Eustis) for “Soldiers Lend Helping Hand at ‘Camp Anything Goes’,” by Spc. Jonathan Wiley, published June 21.

LAMP (Fort Leavenworth) for “Hearing It All—Some Hearing Loss Preventable With Simple Precautions,” by Munson Army Health Center, published June 21.

PRAIRIE SOLDIER (Nebraska NG) for the eight-page special edition “Thunderstruck,” a series of articles on the 2001 air fest at Lincoln, published in the June issue. Kevin Hynes is editor.

SOUNDOFF! (Fort Meade) for “This Is A Staff—Installation Exercises Force Protection Response Capabilities,” story by Denny Cox, photos by Sherry Dibari, published June 28.

KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS (Marshall Islands) for “CG Calls For Competitive Range, Modernization,” by Jim Bennett, published June 22.

TRACKS (Anniston Army Depot) for “Some Summer (And Year-Round) Safety Tips,” no byline, published July 3.

EAGLE (SMDC) for “Running The National Race For The Cure,” by Jonathan Pierce, published June.

MONITOR (Fort Bliss) for the double truck “Saving Souls In The Desert—Cookin’ Up Culinary Delights,” articles by Sgt. David Bennett, Pfc. Melissa E. Walter and Pfc. Kevin Dunaway, published June 28.

TIEFORT TELEGRAPH (Fort Irwin) for “Suicide: A Desperate Cry For Help,” by Spc. Amy Abbott, published June 29.

CANNONEER (Fort Sill) for the story and layout in “Desert Deployment Tests Falcon’s Interoperability,” by Adam Schaffer, published June 14.

PARAGLIDE (Fort Bragg) for the page-one photo “Home Of The Brave,” [fireworks burst over Fort Bragg’s main parade field] by Anna C. Petersen, published July 5.

INDIANHEAD (2ID, Korea) for the photos in “Infantrymen Strive For EIB,” by Spc. Shawn Woodard, published June 15.

TALON (Bosnia) for the outstanding June 23 issue. Staff Sgt Lisa Dunphy is editor.

MISSILE RANGER (White Sands Missile Range) for the two-page spread “White Sands Celebrates Army Birthday, Flag Day,” story and photos by Sandra Flores, published June 22.

LAMP (Fort Leavenworth) for “Simulated Threat,” by Sgt. William Boldt, published June 28.

TRADOC PAO for the continuing series “Korea 50 Years Ago,” by Jim Caldwell.

ARMY FLIER (Fort Rucker) for “I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Ice Cream!” by Staci Sands. Also for the photos and story in “Fort Rucker, Air Force Unit Set Example For Whole Military,” by Pfc. M. William Petersen. Both published June 21.

RED RIVER REVIEW (Red River Army Depot) for “Genesis: Red River Army Depot And Lone Star Army Ammunition Depot,” by Bob Norrid, published June 26.

TALON (Bosnia) for “Soldiers Train With Nonlethal Weapons,” story and photos by Spc. T. S. Jar-musz, published June 30.

ALASKA POST (Fort Richardson) for the excellent layout in “Armed Forces Eco-Challenge,” photos and story by Toni Massari McPherson, photos by Spc. Lindsay Pike and Chad Ausel. Also for the commentary “Pregnancy + Booze = Hard Times For Growing Babies,” by Ron Kushmaul. Also for the layout in “Matanuska Mount—Youth Scale Wall Of Ice,” photos and story by Pvt. Nathan Silver. All published May 31.

BELVOIR EAGLE (Fort Belvoir) for the commentary “Knowledge Of Army History; More Than ‘Rights Of Passage’,” by Wayne V. Hall. Also for “Physical Therapy Gives Treatment, Provides Pre-

vention Measures,” story by Sgt. Ed Passino, photos by Catherine Phillips. Both published June 14.

SENTINEL (Fort McPherson) for “Beret Beautiful,” by Bill Roche, published June 15.

MOUNTAINEER (Fort Carson) for the photos in “Invasion: 4th ESB, 7th ID Invades ‘Cortina’ During Annual Train-Up For JRTC,” taken by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Dyer, Staff Sgt. Antony M. C. Joseph and Sgt. Darren Hausel, published June 1.

BAYONET (Fort Benning) for “When It Comes To Cool Treats...Summer Hot,” story and photos by Rachel R. Garcia and Bridgett Siter, published July 6.

HERALD-POST (26th ASG, Germany) for “Cemetery Refreshes Memories,” by Rick Haverinen, published June 21.

ALASKA POST (Fort Richardson) for three-page feature “Armed Forces Eco-Challenge, story and photos by Sgt. Joel Davis, published June 28.

CONSTELLATION (Baltimore Recruiting Battalion) for “Corps, Other Agencies Help Volunteers Plant Barren Island,” story by Chanel S. Weaver, photos by Tex Jobe and Susanne Bledsoe, published July.

SENTINEL (Fort Hood) for the page-one photo of a missile being fired by Spc. Lyza M. Beaudreault supporting her story “Guard: Dual Mission, One Fight.” Also for the commentary “Watch Out For The Latest Used Car Sales Scams,” by Capt. Brian Chapuran. Also for the two-page spread “Past And Present First Team Soldiers Celebrate Reunion,” story and photos by Pfc. Stephanie Shepard, published June 21.

LEADER (Fort Jackson) for “Eating Disorders,” by Denver Beaulieu-Hains. Also for “Angel Dust—It Won’t Make You Grow Wings,” by Donna Nicosia. Also for the commentary “A Real American Hero,” by Spc. Brian Lamar. All published June 28.

PARAGLIDE (Fort Bragg) for the commentary “Leadership More Than Just Giving Orders,” by Stacey Avian Robinson, published May 31.

REDSTONE ROCKET (Redstone Arsenal) for “Learning By Burning,” by Sandy Riebeling. Also for “Power Of Food Pyramid Can Lead To Better Health,” by Skip Vaughn. Both published June 27.

SENTINEL (Fort McPherson) for the layout in “Cop-Etition,” photos and story by Jamie Danesi, published May 18.

PHOENIX RISING (Recruiting Battalion, Phoenix, AZ) for an outstanding July issue. Starlene R. Cork is the editor.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS (COE, Wilmington) for “Corps Partnership Revitalizes Trout Streams,” by Penny Schmitt, published in June.

BAYONET (Fort Benning) for the commentary “Commentary Prose Lows Freely,” by Elsie Jackson, published July 13.

CRUSADER (98th ASG, Germany) for “Interracial Couples Find Consent,” by Cheryl Bonjnida, published July 6.

SCOUT (Fort Huachuca) for “Claims Office Provides Tips For Making Move Easy” and “Adventure Racers Lean Lessons, Move Smarter Into The Future,” both by Spc. Jessica Espinosa, published July 12.

HERALD-POST (26th ASG, Germany) for “Schloss Schwetzingen—Palace And Its Gardens A Feast For The Eyes,” by Juan R. Melendez Jr., published July 12.

WOLVERINE GUARD (Michigan, NG) for “Blackhawks And Beyond,” by Master Sgt. Tom Springer, published Spring 2001.

SOUTHERN STAR WEEKLY (19th TSC, Korea) for “Shedding Light On The Veterans Of The Forgotten War,” by Spc. Chris Passino, published July 6.

BUCKEYE GUARD (Ohio NG) for “Remembering His Roots” and “Troops To Teachers,” both by Sgt. J. R. Lewis, published in the Spring 2001 issue.

ENGINEER UPDATE (Hq, COE) for an excellent July issue. Bernard Tate is editor.

WHEEL (Fort Eustis) for “Harbor Festivities,” photos and layout by Sgt. Paula R. Flatts, published June 14.

GUARD TIMES (New York, NG) for an outstanding March-April issue. Lt. Col. Paul A. Fanning and Maj. Richard L. Goldenberg are editors.

POST (Fort Dix) for “Dorothea, Richard, Drew and John: The Four Who Made The Name Dix Famous,” by Carolee Nisbet. Also for the commentary “Don’t Point The Finger—Point The Way,” by David Moore. Both published July 13.

PENTAGRAM (Fort Myer) for “Dead Reckoning,” story and photos by Paul Haring, published July 13.



LAMP (Fort Leavenworth) for its photo coverage of the Army's 225th birthday, photos by Prudence Siebert, published July 12.

ARMY FLIER (Fort Rucker) for "Is That A Freckle...Or Something Else?—Tick Bites Spell Big Trouble For Post Nature Lovers," by Staci Sands. Also for "Freedom Fest Reminds Wiregrass What It Means To Be American," by Pfc. M. Petersen. Both published July 6.

NORTHWEST GUARDIAN (Fort Lewis) for "Knowledge Becomes Strong Weapon Against STDs," by Lt. Col. David Peterson, published July 6.

GUIDON (Fort Leonard Wood) for the two-page spread "Fear Factor," story and photos by Pvt. Chris Charlton, published June 14.

SENTINEL (McPherson) for "Demining Oman," by Staff Sgt. Jeff Troth, published June 8.

IRONSIDE (1AD) for the outstanding photos in the feature "Iron Soldiers Return To Open Arms," by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow, published June-July issue.

INSIDE THE TURRET (Fort Knox) for "Disability May Cause For Release From Army," by the SJA staff, published June 21.

TRAINING TIMES (100th ASG, Germany) for "Artwork, Boxing Enable Soldier To Turn Life Around," by Larry Reilly. Also for the photographs in "Welcome Home!", by Paula Guzman, Franz Zellman and Larry Reilly. All published June 12-15.

COURIER (Fort Campbell) for its visual presentation on the berets: "They're Here—Sergeant Major Of Army Talks Straight About Berets," excerpted from SMA letter, and "Leaders Stress Proper Wear Of Headgear," by Spc. Dahrl C. Hankins. Also for its bold, dynamic and innovative page designs in the Sports and Leisure sections. Also for "Following Father's Footsteps," by Laura Meyer. All published June 14.

TRANSLOG (MTMC) for "Ocean Catastrophe Leaves Family Starting Over," by Leesha A. Galery, published May-June.

NORTHWEST GUARDIAN (Fort Lewis) for the continuation of "Reliving The Past And Continuing To Fight For Freedom," by Spc Reeba Varghese, published April 27.

COURIER (Fort Campbell) for "Debt, Credit Problems Prior To Enlistment Can Be Resolved," by 1st Lt. Daniel Boyer, published July 3.

RECRUITER JOURNAL (Hq, Recruiting Cmd) for "USAREC Honors Icon In Recruiting History," by Pearl Ingram also "Sarge Helping Recruiters Win Their Race," by Tom Tiernan. Both published July.

BELVOIR EAGLE (Fort Belvoir) for "Clinic Helps Children, Parents Cope With ADHD," by Spc. Casondra Brewster. Also for the outstanding sports photos by Tim Hipps, published July 19.

WARRIOR LEADER (4th ROTC Region, Fort Lewis) for the layout in "A Bar Is Born," by Bob Rosenburgh. Also for Rosenburgh's cartoon "2nd Louie," both published July 4.

BLIZZARD (Fort Drum) for "EFMB: Soldiers Hit The Battlefield To Test Medical Skills Enduring Tactical And Technical Obstacles," by Sgt. Kelly Whitteaker, published June 14.

DISTRICT DIGEST (COE, Nashville) for "Patterson Preserves Some Of Nature's Most Beautiful Creatures," by Bill Peoples, published May.

BAYONET (Fort Benning) for "Physical Fitness Training Program Slows Aging," and "Programs Help Prevent Suicide Attempts" and "Gatekeeper helps Rate Drop." all by Bridgett Siter, published July 20.

POINTER VIEW (West Point) for the consistently outstanding sports and feature articles by Jim Fox.

COURIER (Fort Campbell) for "Car Repossession: Office Teaches Soldiers To Begin Again After Repo," by Legal Assistance Office, published July 12.

SINE PARI (USASOC, Fort Bragg) for an exceptionally outstanding July issue. The SINE PARI now has color on its cover pages—back and front—its headlines are bold and layouts innovative. Sgt. Jon Creese is editor.

IRONMAN (95th Div) for "Staff Sgt. Turns 10 Years Army Broadcasting Experience Into Small Business Opportunity," by Sgt. 1st Class J.D. Hardesty, published in June.

PENTAGRAM (Fort Myer) for the photos in "Myer Soldiers Find Fun, Relaxation In Bahama." Also for the page-one photo "Fireworks Spectacular," by Paul Haring, published July 6.

HERALD UNION (Germany) for "Hitting The Trail," by Karl Weisel, published July 10.

ENGINEER UPDATE (Hq. COE) for the commentary "Army Has Good Values," by Jim Peak, published in July. -30-

JOURNALIST AWARD WINNERS



Two publications and a journalist joins the ranks of J-Award winners. Fort Hood Sentinel, commended on its marked editorial and graphic improvements (Sgt. Dale Terry, editor), and DSCL's Globe, a magazine with bold designs and relevant articles (Sgt. Mitch Frazier). Karl Weisel, editor of the Herald Union is now a member of the Individual listing. (Note: When a journalist or publication is no longer active, names are dropped from the listing.)

PUBLICATION AWARDS

Three Awards Army Flier; Courier

Two Awards

Inside the Turret; Casemate; Herald Union; Guardian; Fort Riley Post; Ironside; Monitor

One Award

Guidon; Eagle; Fort Dix Post; Korus; Desert Voice; Herald-Post; Pointer View; Torii; Talon; Lamp; Seoul Word; On Guard; Duty First; Training Times; Prairie Soldier; Citizen; Redstone Rocket; Fort Carson Mountaineer; Castle Comment, Mercury; Alaska Post; Sine Pari; Bulletin; Bayonet; Frontline; Benelux Meteor; Tobyhanna Reporter; Riverside; Indianhead; Banner; Tiefert Telegraph; Outlook; Paraglide; Castle; Phoenix Rising; Pentagongram; Signal; Kwajalein Hourglass; Buckeye Guard; Countermeasure; Bear Facts; Tower Times; Leader; Frontline; Medical Minute; Globe; Fort Hood Sentinel

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Four Awards

Staci Sands

Two Awards

Tim Hipps; Carol Cummings

One Award

Larry Barnes; Tonya Riley; Nel Lampe; Dave Snyder; Spc. Stacey Harris; Jean Schucker; Jean Offutt; Wayne V. Hall; Sgt. Mitch Frazier; Sgt. Christy Johnstone; Michael Meines; Rick Brunk; Lucille Anne Newman; Melissa Davis; Bridgett Siter; Spc. Casandra Brewster; Pfc. Monica Garreau; Spc. Teresa Heist; Sandy Riebeling; Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald; Harry Noyes; Mindy Anderson; Kim Rieschling; Sgt. William Wilczewski; Roger T. Conroy; Sgt. Ed Passino; Jill Mueller; Julia Ayers; Laurie Almodovar; David Ruderman; Sgt. Cullen James; Irene Brown; Karl Weisel

WORDS, PHRASES AND THEIR PARTICULARS

Brief synopsis—A *synopsis* is *brief*. The phrases is redundant.

Rein or reign—These two words can easily confuse writers and editors. Reins are used to control horses or similar animals. The operative word is *control*. A person who *rules* generally reigns. *Reins* rather than *reigns* would have been better suited for the headline shown at right.

Set the date before **B.C.** as in 1000 **B.C.** and the date after **A.D.** as in **A.D.** 1000. Other systems of chronology: **B.C.E.**, Before the Common Era is similar to **B.C.** **C.E.**, Common Era is similar to **A.D.**

At this point in time—Five words to say *currently*, *now* or *at present* (or delete). “*At this point in time*, the Army’s transformation is well underway.” The Army’s transformation is underway.

